

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update June 21 - 27, 2012

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through construction work zones. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com.

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs Saturday and Sunday from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley during the month of June; for information and a schedule, visit the web at www.yarts.com.

The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to wind storm damage. Pedestrian and bicycle access on the Reds Meadow road, past the Minaret Vista Station, is prohibited due to hazards associated with roadside cleanup and falling of trees. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for Reds Meadow road information, current recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. All roads in the park are open. However, due to extreme heat and remoteness, the Park Rangers recommend travelers stay on the paved roads from June through September. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert locations at higher elevations, to always leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain an up to date backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For backcountry road information, check the web site at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current conditions.

WEATHER: Sunny and hot days, due to a ridge of high pressure over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave, will persist through late Thursday. This system will begin to move east on Friday, as a low pressure system slowly moves over the coast of California. This is expected to result in gusty winds and cooler temperatures for the weekend. Temperatures are expected to cool to below normal by early next week. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, mid 90s in the Owens Valley and near 120 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains, to the upper 80s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. The Bishop **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water), Horton Creek (fee /no drinking water) and Crowley Lake are open (fee/no drinking water). Goodale Creek is closed for renovations.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. For more park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, open campgrounds include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For park information, visit the web www.nps.gov/deva.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid-Hills. At 5,600 feet, Mid Hills is cooler than the desert floor. For information, visit the web at www.nps.gov/moja or call 1-760-733-4040.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County	California - Department of Transportation	Bureau of Land Management
California - Department of Fish & Game	National Park Service	Mono County
City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power		USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park offers some of the world's best mountain biking. The Panorama Gondola is open daily for scenic rides, as well as bike transport. Trails accommodate all skill levels - from first timers to the best of "air" artists. Call 1-760-934-0706 for information, or visit the web at www.mammothmountain.com.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the new reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT on the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forests; for more information visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/htnf.

THIS WEEK'S FUN: Get your motor runnin' at the **2012 MONSTER ENERGY MAMMOTH MOTORCROSS:** June 22 through July 1 in Mammoth Lakes. Recognized as one of the nation's top amateur events, the Motorcross draws racers and spectators alike to this magnificent track in the mountains. For schedule of on and off track events, visit the website at www.mammothmotorcross.com or call 1-760-934-0605.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily and other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented daily at 10:00am, 1:00pm and 6:00pm (starting 6/25). Meet at the South Tufa parking lot near the south shore of Mono Lake (recreation fee area). Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

Visit the **MAMMOTH MUSEUM**, in the historic Emmet Haden Cabin, and discover Mammoth Gold Rush Days. Exhibits and many photos give life to those exciting times; the museum is open daily, 10am to 6pm, Mon - Thurs & 10am to 5:30pm, Fri - Sun.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the website at recreation.gov, or call 1-877-444-6777.

Information on the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** can be obtained daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the **Kelso Depot Visitor Center** (off I 15 at Baker or off I 40 on Kelbaker Road). The Visitor Center features exhibits, an orientation film, an art gallery and bookstore. Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered daily at 11:00am and 2:00pm. The **Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center** is open Friday through Sunday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 6/21/12kcw